

Record

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**CONFIDENTIAL**
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Liaison

Washington, D. C. 20505


Telephone: 351-6121

8 March 1985

TO: Mr. Bernard McMahon, Staff Director
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Enclosed is Senator D'Amato's letter to CIA which Chuck discussed with you recently. Also enclosed for your information, in view of Senator Specter's interest in Dr. Mengele, is an article recently written by a DI analyst who is very familiar with the information available here.

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 24, 1985

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I write today to request your assistance on a matter of deep concern to me, to the American people, and to the international community. I ask that you direct the formation of a special team to conduct an intensive search of intelligence records for any and all information directly or indirectly concerning Dr. Josef Mengele, the chief physician at the Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz. I further ask that you personally review any information located by this search and that you exercise your authority to declassify and release it to the public, so that the "Angel of Death" of Auschwitz may be apprehended and brought to justice for his monstrous crimes.

An article published in the New York Times on January 23, 1985, entitled "Papers Indicate Mengele May Have Been Held and Freed After War," is based upon declassified intelligence records obtained by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. The story states that "the declassified documents include a letter dated April 26, 1947, from Ben J. M. Gorby, a special agent of the United States Counter-Intelligence Corps in Germany, to the commanding officer of the 430th C.I.C. detachment in Vienna. Mr. Gorby wrote that his office had received information that Dr. Mengele 'has been arrested in Vienna.' An informant, he went on, 'stated that to the best of his knowledge Dr. Mengele was arrested in the U.S. Zone of Germany' - an apparently erroneous reference to Vienna, where the 430th unit was stationed."

I understand that records from the post-war period are voluminous, poorly catalogued, and badly indexed. I further understand that these indices are either not cross referred or are poorly cross referred. Thus, a conventional search in response to a Freedom of Information Act request is unlikely to locate information which in fact could exist in these records.

The United States must not allow one of the worst Nazi war criminals to escape justice because of the quirks of our intelligence records filing system. Accordingly, I ask that you contact retired Army C.I.C. personnel and retired C.I.A. personnel who

worked with these records during the time periods specified in the Wiesenthal Center's documents, and recruit a team to search for Mengele information in these stored records. I further ask that you assign a member of your staff to head this team to expedite its effort and to quickly return any information it may locate to you for your prompt review.

Recall of these personnel to active duty on a voluntary and temporary basis will require funds. I am prepared to offer an amendment to the earliest available legislative vehicle to provide additional funds for salaries and overhead for this effort. I urge you to initiate this effort now, however, with confidence that I will be able secure agreement to provide any additional funds needed for its support.

I also would like to meet with you at your office at your earliest convenience to discuss this important effort. My staff will contact you shortly to arrange this meeting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Alfonse D'Amato
United States Senator

AD:mhr

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Paraguay-Latin America: The Case of Dr. Mengele

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The search for German war criminal Josef Mengele has centered on South America, long a haven for Nazi fugitives. Paraguay has been a special target for investigators. Mengele reportedly lived there during the early 1960s, and some Nazi hunters believe he still resides in Paraguay under official protection.

Mengele, a physician, is accused of selecting tens of thousands of inmates at the Auschwitz concentration camp for medical experiments or extermination in gas chambers. Most of the information we have on his postwar activities is unsubstantiated—the last confirmed sighting was in the late 1960s, according to press reports—and serves more to document Mengele's past movements than to provide indications of whether he is still alive or his current whereabouts.

The Paraguayan Government has been only mildly responsive to inquiries about Mengele, and President Stroessner has barred independent investigations, labeling them as interference in internal affairs. In our view, if Mengele—who would now be 73 years old—is alive and residing in Paraguay, the regime's attitude, combined with the lack of recent information on his whereabouts, gives him a reasonable chance of continuing to evade capture.

Past Residence in Paraguay

Last December two sources provided US Embassy personnel with what appear to be plausible, although unconfirmed, accounts of Mengele's movements until the early 1970s. The first source, a lawyer from New York, was visiting Paraguay to gather information for a book on Mengele. He met several times there with [redacted] a Russian emigre who has lived in the country for 50 years and claims a long relationship with the Nazi fugitive. [redacted] told the lawyer that Mengele started visiting Paraguay in the mid-1950s while residing in Buenos Aires, became a Paraguayan citizen in 1959, and lived in and around Asuncion until 1965. Mengele then moved to Brazil, according to [redacted] and visited Paraguay

Recompensa: 10.000.000 de guaraníes
RECONOCE USTED A ESTE HOMBRE?



(Fotografía obtenida en 1976)

**SE LLAMA JOSEPH (O JOSE) MENGELE
ES EL ASESINO MAS BUSCADO DEL MUNDO**

Es responsable de la muerte de unos 600.000 judíos en cámaras de gas durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Practicó innumerables experimentos sobre seres humanos, sometidos a horribles tormentos físicos.

Nació en Alemania en 1911, es médico y se naturalizó paraguayo en 1968. Su carta de ciudadanía le fue cancelada en 1979.

Existe orden de captura solicitada en las oportunidades este año por el juez del crimen doctor Américo Aveiro (B).

RECOMPENSA: 10 MILLONES DE GUARANÍES
Por cualquier información que conduzca a su detención.

Comunicar con:
FF.DJP.
El. Rue. de B. de C.
C. de B. de C.

Reward poster placed by Nazi hunters in a Paraguayan newspaper last November. The picture of Mengele was obtained in 1976, but its date or origin is uncertain. The reward for information is about \$25,000 in Paraguayan currency.

Ultima Hora ©

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several times in the late 1960s. [redacted] said 25X1
Mengele lived in Brazil until several years ago. The 25X1
Russian claimed that he knew the exact location in
Brazil and that he could easily find out if Mengele
were still alive.

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[redacted] corroborated and added to this information in a later meeting with US Embassy personnel. According to [redacted] Mengele was a partner in a large hardware store in Asuncion between 1959 and 1965, and used his own name during that period. The store had ties to a farm implement factory owned by the Mengele family in Germany, and Mengele allegedly visited Germany several times. [redacted] said Mengele left Paraguay for Brazil in 1965 after Nazi hunters discovered his whereabouts. Eventually, according to [redacted] the Nazi fugitive went on to Portugal but continued corresponding with friends in South America until around 1980. [redacted] said that Mengele's friends believe the absence of correspondence since then indicated that Mengele had died.

How Mengele Evaded Capture

Halfhearted Pursuit. The lawyer from New York told US Embassy personnel he had obtained evidence that the Israelis had broken off their efforts to capture Mengele two decades earlier. He said a high-level Israeli intelligence officer assigned to tracking Nazis had told him that in the early 1960s Israeli operatives trailed Mengele to a farm near Encarnacion in southern Paraguay. The farm was heavily fortified and difficult to storm. The Israelis, according to the intelligence official, were also inhibited from taking action by the international uproar over their 1960 kidnaping of Nazi fugitive Adolph Eichmann in Buenos Aires. The Israeli said that, by the mid-1960s, Tel Aviv had more pressing concerns elsewhere and the search for Mengele was shelved.

The West Germans also balked at about the same time, according to [redacted]. He claimed that the West German Ambassador in Asuncion had queried him about Mengele's whereabouts, but then asked [redacted] to withhold the information. [redacted] believed that the Ambassador did not want to be put in a position in which he would have had to press Paraguay to extradite the fugitive to West Germany.

Paraguayan Protection. Even more important, in our view, was the official protection Mengele evidently enjoyed in Paraguay. Stroessner, who has been in power since 1954, is of German background, and he sympathized with the Axis powers during World War

II. Moreover, according to an unconfirmed report from a retired US military officer who lived in Paraguay in the 1960s and early 1970s, Mengele served on occasion as Stroessner's personal physician. Stroessner agreed only under strong international pressure to revoke Mengele's Paraguayan citizenship in 1979. 25X1

Mengele reportedly also received considerable help from the network of prosperous people of German origin living in Paraguay.¹ For example, his partner in the Asuncion hardware store, according to [redacted] was of German descent. The fortified ranch at which Mengele was staying when the Israelis located him belonged to a family of German background. 25X1


Recent Developments

Although the last confirmed sighting of Mengele was nearly two decades ago in Paraguay, there have been numerous unsubstantiated reports in recent years. In January 1982, longtime Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal claimed that Mengele was alive, although afflicted with cancer, and was moving between Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia. Another Nazi hunter believes Mengele has abandoned Paraguay and is traveling between Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay. Others claim to have spotted him at various times in Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, and the United States. Last August, Mengele was allegedly seen by informants in the Paraguayan cities of Filadelfia, Puerto Stroessner, and Pedro Juan Caballero. In mid-February, a Paraguayan exile in Buenos Aires claimed Mengele was living on a military base in Laureles, a town to the east of Desmochados in southwestern Paraguay, where Stroessner has his summer home. 25X1

Stroessner has been only mildly cooperative in investigating such rumors. Last November, in response to a request from a delegation led by a former member of the US Congress, the President 25X1

¹ The German-origin community includes people whose families began emigrating to Paraguay in the late 19th century and others who arrived after World War II. According to open sources, some 200,000 Paraguayans out of a total population of 3.6 million are of German descent.


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ordered a nationwide manhunt for Mengele and offered to allow outsiders to assist Paraguayan police investigators. Press reports indicate, however, that the Paraguayan inquiry was halfhearted—Asuncion announced within days that it had found nothing—and Stroessner soon reneged on his offer to allow non-Paraguayans to assist his investigators. We believe his initiative was little more than a gambit aimed at easing international pressure.

Prospects for Capture

If Mengele is still alive, we believe his personal wealth, his connections among Germans in Paraguay and elsewhere in South America, the porosity of borders in the region, and the lack of recent confirmed sightings will hinder efforts to locate and capture him. Moreover, we see little indication that Stroessner currently intends to be cooperative. If Mengele is now residing in Paraguay, the President would probably want to avoid the embarrassment of having him found there. Paraguayan resentment of US human rights policies will also impede efforts to persuade Asuncion to help track Mengele down. We expect that only a combination of intense international pressure and economic or political incentives would prompt Stroessner to cooperate.



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